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BRIDGE WHIST IS WORLD'S GREATEST AND EVER INCREASING AMUSEMENT

To Be Unable to Play the Game Is to Be a Social Outcast; As Necessary for Society Folk as Dancing, and as Enjoyable; Is Rapidly Succeeding Poker and Is in Great Demand at Eastern Resorts; Game Was Originated by Turks.

Washington, D. C. May 12.—Perhaps no other game in the history of card playing has taken such hold on society in such a short time as has bridge whist. Twenty years ago it had not been introduced either in England or America. It existed only in Constantinople and in parts of Russia. Today one can hardly go anywhere in the civilized world without encountering the game. In fifteen years it has risen to a prominence enjoyed by no other game. When the craze first began, everybody thought it would be like other fads, last a year or two, and then be forgotten. But there is yet no indication of a decline in the interest in bridge. On the contrary, the game is gaining new devotees every day. Even automobiles are now fitted with tables so that their occupants may indulge in a game while bowling along the highway. Trips from New York to Palm Beach have been made for the sole purpose of finishing a series of bridge games.

Originated by Turks.
The story of the origin of the game is full of interest. Its infancy was spent among the Turks, who play it today as the Americans play poker. From Constantinople it emigrated to Alexandria and the Riviera. In 1890 it journeyed to Paris, where it became popular as a desert concluding a serious meal of whist, being played as a relaxation after strenuous sittings at the whist table.

An American learned the game in Paris and brought it to this country in time for one of the large congresses of the American Whist League. All of the great whist players were agreeably

impressed with the new idea, and they carried it to the far ends of the American continent. From this country it journeyed back across the Atlantic, where it won the favor of the English. The honor of having introduced the game into England is said to belong to Lord Brougham.

Detracts From Mission Work.

Much has been written in the press and spoken from the pulpit against the harmfulness of bridge. A prominent New York woman, who at once enjoys high social standing, a splendid education, and a wide reputation for philanthropic and humane work, declares that to let it be known in one social circle that you abjure bridge, is to prove beyond peradventure the truth of the philosophy of the lamented Mark Twain, who held that to be good is to be lonesome. She declares that even mission and charity work in New York city have suffered vast harm by the devotion to bridge of those who formerly were connected with these activities.

Great Game for Winners.

In Chicago James McVeigh, son of the present secretary of the treasury, declared not long ago that he knew a young woman, the daughter of a prominent officer of the United States army, who clothed herself entirely by her winnings at bridge. In another case it was declared that a group of society women aboard one of the Astor yachts lost entire sight of the great international cup race while absorbed in a game of bridge. It was stated that when a friend drew alongside to inquire about the yacht race, one of the women

absent-mindedly replied, "Alice won." That there are a great many people who play for money is well known. But in the rank and file of bridge clubs this is not true. An authority on the game declares that probably not more than 10 per cent of the devotees of the table play for stakes.

Small Price Per Point.

When the game is played for money it is usually for one or five cents a point, although in many instances the stakes are five dollars. It is said that in only a few cases do professionals at the game make much of a living out of it. One player who kept a record of his bridge money for five years found that in that time he was \$4000 ahead. Another made \$1500 in a single year, and he was regarded as a poor player. One who was regarded as a good player, on the other hand, lost \$200 in one week. A few years ago there was a game at Saratoga which lasted for twenty-four hours, in which the stakes were five dollars a point.

In Demand at Resorts.

A story is told of another game at this resort, in which a young man was asked to make up the set. He inquired as to what the table stakes were. "Five," was the laconic answer. The young man joined in the game and played for several hours. At the end of the sitting he thought he had won about \$30. He was counting that the stakes were five cents a point. As a matter of fact he was unconsciously playing at five dollars a point and he was shocked the next day to receive a check for \$3200. He protested against accepting it, but the loser insisted, saying that if he had won he would have demanded five dollars a point from the young man.

Chances Great for Losing.

While the ladies reply to their poker-playing husbands that they had rather sit in a game that involves more skill than chance, as a matter of fact even prominent players are said to have won twenty-nine successive rubbers. The chances are only one in 200,000,000 that a man can win so many times in succession. Yet even this is not impossible, since in other kinds of games men have sometimes won against such tremendous odds. At Monte Carlo in roulette, the red won thirty-two times in succession, which is no more of an exploit than to win twenty-nine successive rubbers at whist. At a prominent New York club a man devoted to bridge is said to have lost nearly \$9000 in seven months at ten cents a point. He played on an average of six rubbers a day, winning two of them. The loss of one game a day had thus cost him nearly \$9000.

Various Combinations of Hands.

The number of hands that may be held at bridge is beyond the grasp of the human mind. In a faint way this may be illustrated by the statement that

if every one of the 1,600,000,000 inhabitants of the earth were suddenly to be transformed into a bridge fiend who plays 410 hours a day, it would take 2,000,000,000,000 (two trillion) years to exhaust all of the possible hands. Even on the question of the occurrence of the aces in a hand the odds are 189 to 1 that there are not four in a given hand.

Money an Excuse.

Most men object to their wives playing for money at bridge, even though they themselves are frequenters of the green covered table. The story is told of one woman whose husband was very insistent that she should never be guilty of playing for money. Yet upon one occasion she did play for money and was so interested in the game that she got home only after her husband's dinner hour. His righteous indignation knew no bounds. After listening meekly to his outbursts of wrath for awhile, she took from her pocketbook twenty-four crisp one-dollar bills and handed them to him. With little show of appreciation he took them and sternly assured her that he could never accept any other excuse than that.

Roosevelt Permitted Game.

Washington is a favorite home of the devotee of bridge. Although Theodore Roosevelt, when president of the United States, thundered mightily against the habit, even in his own official family there was one of the best bridge players in the diplomatic world. George A. Von Meyer, secretary of the navy, learned the finer points of the game in Russia, and some of his plays are said to be classics in the art of forcing the hand of his opponent.

Many Works on Game.

The literature of bridge is very large, considering the comparative infancy of the game. The booksellers' catalogues list something like seventy different works explaining its mysteries and codifying its laws. For a long time bridge players supported a magazine devoted exclusively to the game, but in recent months this magazine has taken up other forms of whist, skat, etc. There are in nearly all important cities men and women who earn a living by introducing strangers to the subtleties of the game. In some cases they supplement their earnings as teachers by their winnings elsewhere.

Is First in America.

Bridge not only has the place formerly occupied by straight whist as the most popular card game, but it has done much more. It has taken the first place as the means of social entertainment in America. Bridge is played for itself alone, and bridge parties are more numerous than all other entertainments taken together. Bridge precedes and follows luncheons, successful dinner and is hoped for even when it is not in evidence. One's qualifications as a bridge player form the measure of his social stature. The most charming and brilliant man or woman in the country

will be socially lost unless the charm and brilliance is supplemented by the ability to play bridge. If one would commit social suicide and forever erase his name from the invitation lists of his social world, let him abjure bridge. Every other shortcoming may be forgiven, but ignorance of bridge is unpardonable.

BRAYAN'S DAUGHTER AND NEW HUSBAND.

Lincoln, Neb., May 12.—In the same room, where, nearly seven years ago, she was married to William Homer Leavitt, Mrs. Ruth Bryan Leavitt became the bride of Lieutenant Reginald Altham Owen, an officer in the Royal British Engineers, stationed at Kingston, Jamaica. At the time of her marriage to Mr. Leavitt, Ruth Bryan was a slender school girl, just past eighteen, girlish in appearance and man-



LIEUT. AND MRS. R. ALTHAM OWEN

ners. Today she is a striking handsome woman of twenty-five, with many of the mannerisms of her father.

There was a contrast in the second ceremony of this and that of October, 1903. Rumor had it that time that Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Bryan were displeased with the marriage of their youthful daughter. This time they were serene and smilingly happy. The ceremony was very simple, so devoid of any display and so limited as to attendance as to be the subject of comment. Mr. and Mrs. Bryan almost were secretive in their arrangements for the service. No advance information could be got of the marriage, and not even the name of the officiating minister was given out until after the ceremony.

HISTORY AND HABIT STRANGE REPEATERS

(Continued From Page One.)

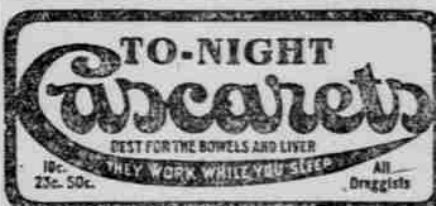
worked, so long as he worked. He has always worked, taken orders, and obeyed, moved here and there at command, as does a horse.

In the jail, Saenz was a marked man because he worked more than any fellow prisoner. And if he received no orders from the many who could command him, he worked anyway at something. The jailer saw and noted. But he had seen such things before. No doubt the man was shamming, clever rogues often do as much, and who may judge in the cesspool of a prison. So, for three long years Saenz worked, always the same, willing, eager for the command, exact, punctual in its doing. He never complained, he never slackened; he only worked, worked cheerfully, almost. Nor was his mentality found deficient. He was of better grade Mexican workman, neither poor nor prince.

At last it came. Two months ago Jesus Saenz was summoned to appear before the commandante of police. He was made a "trusty," given freedom about the comandancia. The commandante had solicited such permission from the jefe politico, and the jefe, executive happily, almost. Nor was his mentality found deficient. He was of better grade Mexican workman, neither poor nor prince.

But still the man worked on, making himself invaluable to the officials. He showed a remarkable intelligence, and soon became a trusted messenger about the city. Just the other day, Jesus was sent to El Paso on an errand. With him he carried a bank note of large value. He returned the errand done, and with the exact change. The commandante no more feared to lose the man or money. The hunter feels that his favorite dog will fail to retrieve the game.

This story of Jesus Saenz may show many things; that Antonio Ponce de Leon knows men; that Jesus Saenz is an honest man, such a one as sought by a certain Greek and his lantern. But it shows, too, and more strongly so, that the harness of industry may grip a man until no fear nor malice can break the strain of toll which blind man to that blessing of the poor, that luxury for the rich—work.



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Texarkana, ex. May 12.—Rising early this morning to see Halley's comet, Sam Williams was assaulted and rendered unconscious when he returned through the hall and is now in a serious condition. No arrests were made; he intruder robbed the house and escaped.

PERMISSION TO ORIENT

ROAD TO CROSS RIO GRANDE.

Washington, D. C., May 12.—Representative M. R. Smith, of Texas, introduced a bill that the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient road be allowed to construct bridges across the Rio Grande between Presidio Del Norte, Mexico, and El Oro, Texas, also between Del Rio,

Texas and Los Vacas, Mex., after securing the consent of the governor of Chihuahua and Coahuila and the president of the Republic of Mexico.

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